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INFORMATION RECORDING MEDIUM

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an optical information recording medium for recording and/or reading information optically; and, more particularly, the invention relates to a multilayered optical disk, ^{having an improved recording/reading accuracy} [technique].

2. Description of Related Art

(As) One way to achieve ^{an optical disc having} a high capacity [optical disk] is by use of a multilayered medium [technique] having ^{plural} (a) laminated information recording layers [has been proposed]. As a read-only disk, a dual-layered DVD-ROM ^{has been proposed} [is achieved]. As for a rewritable dual-layered medium, ^{the} Japanese Journal of Applied Physics, Vol. 38, pp. 1679 to 1686 (1999), introduces such a technique therein, for example. In these techniques, (a) recording layers ^{are built up} [is cumulated] with an interval of several 10 μ m, and recording/reading ^{of} information ^{is affected} by focusing optical spots onto each layer. Information on a side ^{opposite that which receives} [further] ^{the} incident light is recorded/read as the light passes through the layer on the side of the incident light. When reading ^{from an inner layer} (the) information ^{through}, the light passes the layers on the side of the incident light twice.

These techniques can increase ^{the} (a) recording capacity of a medium of the same size ^{to} about twice.



JP-A-21720-1993 discloses a triple-layered recordable medium using a high transmittance organic recording film. In ^{accordance with} this method, ^{the} transmittances of ^{the} three layers are 70%, 80% and 90%, respectively, and ^{the transmittance of} a recording mark thereof is 100%. By detecting ^{the} [an] amount of transmitting light, data recorded on ^{the} three layers are read at the same time. The method is capable to increasing ^{the} [a] recording density and data transfer rate by about three times.

As for an optical disk using a nonlinear optical layer, a method of photon super-resolution ^{has been} [is] proposed. Several methods using this technique have been proposed, and ^{the} Japanese Journal of Applied Physics, Vol. 32, p. 5210, discloses one of them, for example. ^{disclosed} The method is characterized in that, by providing a mask ^{block} top a part of ^{the} optical spot so as to transmit light only through an unmasked portion, ^{thereof} [an] ^{the} effective spot diameter is reduced, thus increasing ^{the} density and capacity of the optical disk. Specifically, in the ^{process of} photon super-resolution, when the light focuses on a film, the light transmittance of the light of higher intensity is increased, whereas, ^{the} reflectance of ^{the} non-focused portion is high. In known techniques, ^{based on} [in] the ^{use of} photon super-resolution, a medium has reflective films, and ^{the} transmittance of the medium itself is always substantially 0%.

The abovementioned techniques, however, have some ^{inherent} problems. In recordable and rewritable optical disks, in particular, it is difficult to form a dual-layered medium that secures a ^{satisfactory} process margin in consideration of mass productivity and ^{the} products or margins for recording/reading conditions. This is because it is difficult to achieve an optimum optical design, ^{that} allow ⁵ ~~allow~~ for high signal modulation in both layers. To increase the signal quality obtained from the light-incident side, the transmittance of the layer should be lowered, and it is better to increase ^{the} reflectance and create larger differences in reflectance between a marked portion and a spaced portion. On the other hand, however, for the layer of ^{the farthest} ~~farther~~ side, the higher the transmittance of the layer on the light incident side is, ^{will be the} the higher ^{that} signals can be received. As such, as for setting ^{the} transmittance of the light incident side layer, the signal needs to be shared by two layers, because the optimum ^{is in conflict} transmittance for both layers ~~contradict~~. More details thereof will be described hereinbelow.

Hereinbelow, a dual-layered phase change medium will be described. ^{in which} Hereinbelow, ^{the} L0 denotes a layer on (a) side (of) ^{the} ~~of~~ facing the incident light, L1 denotes a layer on ^{the other side thereof} ~~the other side~~ ^{a state} ~~the~~ further side, Rc denotes ^{the} disk reflectance of ^{state} ~~crystal~~ ^{layers} ~~crystal~~, and Ra denotes ^{the} amorphous ^{state} thereof. Rc and Ra of ^{the} L0 and L1 are ~~shown~~ ^{indicated} respectively as Rc0, Ra0, Rc1, and Ra1. ^{The} (A) amount of

reflected light/incident light, i.e., ^{the} drive reflectance, is ^{indicated as} ^{the} ^{layer} ^{indicated} ^{shown} R_{cd} and R_{ad} , and ^{the} transmittance of ^{the} $L0$ is ^{shown} as $T0$.

Suppose $T0=60\%$ and $(R_{cd}, R_{ad}) = (15\%, 2\%)$. The reflectance ^{takes on} ^{the} values close to ^{the} reflectance of a phase change disk that is currently produced. It is desirable to obtain the same amount of signal from ^{layers} $L0$ and $L1$. Calculation ^{ng} ^{of} reflectance, while taking the above into consideration, a setting value for ^{the} reflectance of ^{the} $L1$ is ^a $(R_{c1}, R_{a1}) = (41.7\%, 5.6\%)$. However, it is difficult to design ^{that is} a disk for a phase change medium ^{that is} capable of overwriting that has ^a reflectance of 40% or higher. If $T0$ is set higher than ^{the} 60%, ^{the} reflectance and light absorption of ^{the} $L0$ is lowered significantly, and it becomes impossible to obtain ^a desirable property at ^{the} $L0$. Moreover, it is necessary that the transmittance is substantially the same ^{in the} ^{as} crystalline state and ^{the} amorphous state ^{for} (due to) ^{when} the following reason: ^{the} $L0$ has a marked portion and an unmarked portion, ^{and} if the light spot passes on a border of two areas ^{of the} $L0$ as the light reads ^{the} $L1$, the direct current element and amplitude of the signal in reading ^{the} $L1$ fluctuate, thereby causing an increase ⁱⁿ ^{the} jitter or ^{any} error rate. Therefore, ^{the} accidental error of ^{to} transmittance for those two states should be suppressed ^a less than 5 to 10%. However, maintaining ^a translucent transmittance with the range is difficult when considering the process ^{ing} margin.

Moreover, ^{while} ~~even~~ a dual-layered medium generates problems, ^{the} such as ^{above}, it is almost impossible to achieve a recordable/rewritable optical disk having three or more layers.

The triple-layered recordable disk technique described above detects transmittance. In this method, however, optical systems need to be ^{located above} placed on the top, and ^{below} the bottom of the disk. Such a structure makes it difficult to adjust the optical systems, thereby lowering ^{the} production margin of the drive. Moreover, the method is not applicable to a rewritable disk.

In the super-resolution technique, ^{the} an effective spot diameter can be ^{made} smaller, thus allowing for ^a higher density. However, the technique has drawbacks, as follows: A. When considering ^{the} a process ^{ing} margin for mass productivity, it is difficult to make ^{the} a size of the light transmitting portion constant over ^{the} an entire surface of the disk ^{an}. B. In ^{an} the optical disk, ^{the} a signal ^{to} noise ratio S/N becomes an issue ^{and}, ^{in this regard,} and ^{the} an area of an effective spot as a part of the spot diameter determines the signal ^{level,} while ^{the} a spot diameter irradiating the disk determines the noise, whereby the signal is increased for a short mark ^{the}, but overall S/N, including the one for a long mark, is lowered.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the above, the transmittance of ^{the layer} L0 should be high at least while reading ^{layer} the ^{layer} L1 in consideration of ^{layer} the ^{layer} L1. When reading ^{the layer} the ^{the layer} L1, a signal for reading ^{the layer} the ^{the layer} L1 is determined by a square of the transmittance of ^{the layer} L0, that is, T_0^2 . ^{the} [A] value of the obtained signal should be no lower than a half of the signal obtained from a single layer [of] L1, thus ^a ^{value is} ^{as} desirable ^{as} [as] expressed ⁱⁿ [in]:

EXPRESSION 1

$$T_0^2 \geq 50\%$$

$$\therefore T_0 \geq 71\%$$

In the case of a triple-layered medium, the signals are determined by a square of ^{the} transmittance of ^{layer} L0 when reading ^{layer} the ^{the} L1, i.e., T_0^2 , and a product of ^{layer} squared transmittance of ^{layer} L0 and ^{layer} L1, i.e., $T_0^2 T_1^2$, when reading ^{layer} the ^{layer} L2. In this case, each signal for reading ^{layer} L0 and ^{layer} L1 is desirably ^{as} [as] expressed by:

EXPRESSION 2

$$T_0^2 \geq \frac{2}{3} = 67\%$$

$$\therefore T_0 \geq \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \approx 82\%$$

EXPRESSION 3

$$T_0^2 T_1^2 \geq \frac{1}{3} = 33\%$$

$$\therefore T_1 \geq \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} = 71\%$$

When the expressions are generalized, ^{the} transmittance for reading a J^{th} layer of an n-layered recording medium can be expressed as:

EXPRESSION 4[]

$$\prod_{i=1}^{j-1} T_i^2 \geq \frac{n-j+1}{n}$$

where ^{the} i-layer and ^{the} j-layer used herein mean a laminated film interposed between a substrate and ^a spacer layer, or a laminated film interposed between a spacer layer and another spacer layer, the i-layer or the j-layer ^{being} composed of a lower protective layer, a recording layer, an upper protective layer, a nonlinear optical layer or a reflective layer.

However, as described above, it still has ^a high transmittance, thereby making it difficult to design the ^{layer} L0.

Such a problem can be solved by producing a medium where the transmittance is lowered and ^{the} reflectance ^{is} enhanced as the light focuses thereon. Such a mechanism will be described later.

In the above-described Expression 4, ^{the} transmittance of the first layer to the $j-1^{\text{th}}$ layer is dealt with all together, but it is desirable to design ^{the structure} in such a manner that a signal is equally divided among respective layers. In the case of a triple-layered medium, for example, T_0 and T_1 ^{are defined as} fulfilling Expressions 2 and 3 ^(is):

EXPRESSION 5.)

$$T_0 \geq \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}$$

$$T_1 \geq \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}$$

By generalizing the expression, ^{the} transmittance T_i of the i^{th} layer only needs to ^[fulfill] satisfy ^{the} following Expression 6:

EXPRESSION 6.)

$$T_i \geq \sqrt{\frac{n-i}{n-i+1}}$$

Moreover, it is possible to design a medium that ^{will} secure ^[the] ^{ing} process margin if the transmittance is 50% or less when the

light is focusing. In this case, signals on layers further than a light-focusing layer ^{as seen} [seeing] from the light incident layers ^{are} [is] not read, and thus, it is not necessary to consider differences in transmittance of crystal and amorphous, ^{states in such a case,} as described above. The transmittance is low enough to make, ^{the} design ^{of} ~~the~~ a medium, ^{easier,} while securing, ^{the} process, ^{ing} margins [easier].

14 In the present specification, ^{the} phrase "when the light is focusing" ^{refers to} (herein is defined as) a case when a light spot diameter on a film surface becomes 105% or less of ^{the} [a] size of a minimum beam constriction of the optical system, ^{of} concern. ^{The} [A] term "spot diameter" used herein means a diameter ^{providing an} [of] intensity of $1/e^2$ of the central intensity when the spot of the light ^{is} approximated to the gaussian distribution. When the spot diameter spreads by 5%, the central intensity is about 90%, ^{whereby,} it is considered within a margin of ^{the} mechanism ^{described} [shown] below.

A medium that changes transmittance and reflectance, as described above, can be achieved by using a substance whose optical property changes depending on ^{the} [an] energy density of ^{the} [a] light applied to the ^{layer} L0, i.e., by using a nonlinear optical layer. When the nonlinear optical layer is provided between the L0 recording film and L1 recording film, the nonlinear optical layer should be composed of a material that is transparent or translucent when the light is not focused on the L0 recording film, and has a higher

reflectance when the optical spot focuses on the L0 recording medium, compared to a case where the light is not focused. Such a change occurs due to absorption of the light. That can be achieved by either using a photon mode or the heat generated by the light absorption. The change should occur ^(by) depending on the light power density applied to the substance. In order to read the ^{layer} L1 immediately after reading the ^{layer} L0, the change has to return to an original state within a certain period of time, and the transmittance of the ^{layer} L0 has to be high again. It is desirable that it returns to normal naturally during one disk revolution, for example. If the change occurs ^{due to} ~~(by)~~ heat, the temperature should return to the original during one disk revolution so as to reverse the change to the original state.

The mechanism is not only applicable to a dual-layered medium, but ^{is also applicable} to a multilayered medium having ^{two} ~~(2)~~ or more layers.

FIG. 1 illustrates the mechanism. When ~~(the)~~ light of high power density does not irradiate ^{the} ~~(a)~~ nonlinear optical layer 104, i.e., when there is no incident light, and when recording and reading the ^{layer} L1, ^{the} reflectance of the nonlinear optical layer 104 is low, while ^{the} transmittance ^{thereof} is high. On the other hand, when recording/reading the ^{layer} L0, a portion 110 ^{thereof that is} irradiated with light becomes metallic, thereby increasing the reflectance ^{thereof}.

The above-described object is achieved by providing a nonlinear optical layer between a ^{first recording film (LO layer)} [substrate] and a second recording film ^{L1} (LO layer) [1]. The nonlinear optical layer has a property ^{such that} [in which] the transmittance thereof is higher than the reflectance when the light is ^{not} focusing, and the reflectance is higher than the transmittance when the light is [not] focusing. The recording layers are not limited to two layers, and the structure is applicable to a multilayered recording medium having more than two recording layers.

The following materials may be used as a nonlinear optical layer: a) thermochromic material, b) transition metal oxide ^{exhibiting a} [showing] semiconductor-metal transition, c) garnet, and d) magnetic semiconductor.

The thermochromic material changes wavelength ^{according to the} dependency of reflectance and transmittance reversibly [by] temperature. One example thereof is a material of triphenylmethane dye. A super-resolution optical disk using the aforementioned material is disclosed in ^{the} Japanese Journal of Applied Physics, Vol. 39, pp 752 to 755 (2000).

A semiconductor-metal transition is known to occur with temperature, pressure, and ^a compound composition ratio as its variables. In this case, a material causing the transition ^{based on the} (by) temperature thereof is selected. Such a material may include ^{an} oxide of Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni and

Cu. The heat dependency of electronic properties of these materials is described in, for example, Solid State Physics, Vol. 21, pp 1 to 113 (1968). If the material is solely used, ^{an} optical property, such as ^{the} refractive index thereof before and after the transition, does not change much in the wavelength range of visible light used in the current optical disks. A fact regarding VO₂ is reported in Physical Review, Vol. 172, pp. 788 to 798 (1968). In order to solve ^{this} [the] problem, free electrons generated in the transition metal oxide due to the transition ^{are} [is] injected into another material A so as to change ^{the} [an] optical response of the material A. In this case, the material that changes its optical response by the injection of ^{an} electric charge may be ^a metal or ^a semiconductor. In particular, when ^{the} [the] semiconductor is used, ^{an} electric charge is injected into a conduction band so as to increase the number of carriers compared ^{ed} ~~ing~~ to that before the transition, thereby increasing the effect thereof. In order to inject the electric charges efficiently, ^{the} Fermi energy level of the material A should be ^{the} smaller than ^{the} Fermi energy level of the transition metal oxide indicating the transfer. Moreover, the injection of the electric charge is conducted through an interface. Thus, the larger ^{the} [an] area of the interface is, the easier ^{it will be to inject} the electric charge ^{is} [is injected]. Therefore, more electric

charges can be injected if the material A and the transition metal oxide are formed in a multilayered film structure.

Next, a case of using a magnetic material will be described. Among the magnetic materials, there is a kind ^{of material} that ^{exhibits a} ~~(shows)~~ magnetic transition due to heat while changing the optical property simultaneously. Garnet~~s~~, in particular, ^{exhibits} ~~(shows)~~ a strong tendency for this change. FIG.2 shows a temperature dependency of the transmittance of a bulk crystal of garnet having Ga doped therein. ~~(A)~~ ^{the} wavelength of the light used herein is 400 nm. In FIG.2, the transmittance decreases drastically at around 120 °C. ^{the} ~~(A)~~ Curie temperature of the material is about 120 °C, and thus, a change in transmittance occurs due to ^{the} magnetic phase transition.

When a magnetic semiconductor is used, a band structure change due to ^{the} magnetic property contributes a great deal to a change of ^{the} ~~(an)~~ optical property. ^{the} ~~(A)~~ temperature dependency of the optical property of the magnetic semiconductor is described, for example, in Semiconductors and Semimetals, Vol. 25, pp. 35 to 72 (1988). The magnetic semiconductor of this kind includes a material ^{described} ~~(shown)~~ as RMnM, where R is a simple substance or mixture of Cd, Zn, Hg, and Pb, and M is O, S, Se, and Te. RMnM may be used as a simple substance, ^{it} ~~or~~ may be mixed with other materials in some cases.

When the above-described nonlinear optical material is applied to a multilayered disk, it is designed in such a manner that the transmittance is high when no focused light is applied, whereas it becomes low when the focused light is applied. In particular, when ^{such material is} applied ^{ied} to a phase change disk, a phase change recording film absorbs the light, and thus, it is desirable to design the material to have an absorption factor of substantially 0 when the transmittance thereof is high. In this case, however, it is impossible for the nonlinear optical material to indicate ^a transmittance change due to the light absorption. [The] ^{this} problem can be solved by transferring heat from a film near the nonlinear optical layer that absorbs light, if the nonlinear optical material indicates ^a transmittance change by heat. The film for absorbing the light may be a recording film, ^{as} like a phase change film, ^{it} described above, or ^{it} may be formed by laminating a film of metal or semiconductor within the disk. In order to transfer heat efficiently, ^{the} [a] distance between the light absorbing film and the nonlinear optical material has to be shorter, and ^{the} [a] thickness of the metal film or semiconductor therebetween needs to be from 0nm to 50nm.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a diagram illustrating ^{the} [a] structure of a dual-layered disk according to the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a graph showing ^{the} [a] heat dependency of transmittance of a bulk monocrystal of garnet with GA doped therein;

FIGs. 3A to 3G, ^{one diagram which steps in the} illustrate ^a production [steps] of a dual-layered medium;

FIG. 4 is ^{schematic} a block diagram of an optical disk drive for recording and reading a multilayered disk according to the present invention; and

FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrating ^{the} [a] structure of ^a triple-layered disk according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Embodiment 1

As a nonlinear optical layer 104 of FIG. 1, a multilayered structure of VO₂ and GaN is used. ^{The} [A] laminated structure of L0 ^{layer comprises a} [is] polycarbonate substrate of 120 mm in diameter (100 μ m) / a protective layer / a recording film InSe (5 nm) / a protective layer / GaN (2 nm) / VO₂ (2 nm) / GaN (2 nm) / VO₂ (2 nm). ^{The} [A] laminated structure of L1 ^{layer comprises} [is] a protective layer / a recording film InSe (22 nm) / a protective layer / a reflective film (80 nm) ^{on a} [is] 120 mm diameter polycarbonate substrate (1.1 mm). All films are formed by sputtering. A resin layer (spacer layer) of about 30 μ m is arranged between ^{layers} L0 and L1. The polycarbonate substrate of 1.1 mm [in diameter] has grooves with a depth of about 40 nm and a width of 0.3

μm , with a pitch of $0.6 \mu\text{m}$. Specifically, it has a land/groove structure.

FIGs. 3A to 3G show ^{process steps in the} [a] production [process] of the disk in sequence. As shown in FIG. 3A, a polycarbonate substrate 301 with a thickness of 1.1 mm is provided with a land/groove structure. On top of the polycarbonate substrate 301, a reflective film 302, a protective film and recording film 303 are sputtered, as shown in FIG. 3B. Next, a resin 304 for a spacer layer is attached, and a stamper is pressed against the resin to cure the resin, as shown in FIG. 3C, so as to form a land/groove pattern for the ^{layer} LO, as shown in FIG. 3D. Thereafter, as shown in FIG. 3E, a nonlinear optical layer 305 ($\text{GaN} (2 \text{ nm}) / \text{VO}_2 (2 \text{ nm}) / \text{GaN} (2 \text{ nm}) / \text{VO}_2 (2 \text{ nm})$), a protective film, and recording film 303 are sputtered. Herein, GaN is sputtered while mixing ^{it} with 1% of N_2 in ^{an} Ar atmosphere. VO_2 is sputtered by mixing 1% of O_2 in ^{an} Ar atmosphere by using a V target. Lastly, as shown in FIG. 3F, resin for gluing the sheet 306 is attached, ^{and} a polycarbonate sheet 307 with a thickness of 0.1 mm is ^{then} glued therewith, as shown in FIG. 3G. The disk is completed by curing the resin 305. ^{the} Refractive indices of the resins 304 and 306 and ^{the} 0.1 mm sheet 307 are generally the same. The difference in the refractive indices is less than 0.1.

Marks were recorded/read on this disk through an objective lens with a numerical aperture of 0.85 by [the] light.

^{having a}
[with] wavelength of 400 nm. The recording/reading drive used
^{was}
herein [is] a conventional drive, as shown in FIG 4. A
^{operating}
semiconductor laser 401, as a light source is driven by a
laser driving circuit [1] and emits ^a linearly polarized laser
beam. The light ^{is formed into a} [becomes] parallel beam by a lens 402, ^{and it then} passes
through a beam splitter 403 so as to become circularly
polarized light at a $1/4\lambda$ plate 404. The circularly
polarized light is focused on a disk 407 by a lens 405
attached to an actuator 406. The reflective light from the
disk 407 returns to the lens 405 [1] and becomes linearly
polarized light having ^a reverse direction ^{of polarization} from the incident
light at the $1/4\lambda$ plate, so as to ^{turn} [distort] the light path [by] ⁱⁿ
the beam splitter 403. The light passes through a lens 408 [1] and is
divided by a knife-edge prism 409. One of the divided lights
enters a two-division optical detector 410 for
^{control}
auto-focusing servo, and the other enters a two-division
optical detector 411 ^{control in} for reading/tracking system. ^{the} [A] ^{the} ratio
of light amount splitting of the knife-edge prism is the
detector 410: the detector 411 = 1:9.

A signal obtained by the optical detector 410 is taken
^{as a difference}
[for its subtracted] signal. The ^{difference} [subtracted] signal is divided
^{the result is}
by a reading signal, and ^{control} input to an electronic circuit for
auto-focusing servo, for dual-layered disks. The actuator
406 moves the lens 405 for auto-focusing. The signal input
to the auto-focus servo circuit changes as ^{the} [a] focusing point

^{the} of laser beam in the disk 407 moves, and when focused, it becomes 0. When the disk is dual layered, and the transmittance of the ^{layer} L1 is substantially 0, the light focuses on a surface of the sheet 307, the ^{layer} L0, and ^{layer} L1 because ^{the} difference in the refractive indices between the resins 304, 306 and the sheet 307 are minute. When performing auto-focusing, ^{as} the lens 405 moves closer to the disk [to count], the number of 0 cross points of the signal, ^{is counted so that} it is possible to identify where the laser beam focuses on the disk 407 currently. Moreover, when the laser beam focuses on the ^{layer} L0, for example, and moves to the ^{layer} L1, the lens 405 moves to ^{the} further side of the disk [] and stops [the move] when the next 0 cross point is detected.

A sum signal of the signal obtained by the optical detector 411 is input to an RF signal system, and a [subtracted] ^{difference} signal thereof is input to a tracking servo circuit as a push/pull signal. The actuator 406 moves the lens 405 so as to conduct tracking servo.

The above-described drive uses a knife-edge method for auto-focus, and a push-pull method for [a] tracking. Alternatively, an astigmatic method may be used for focus, and a 3-beam differential push-pull method may be used for tracking, for example.

Before evaluating the dual-layered medium described above, [a] single layer disks having ^{the} structure of ^{layer} L0 and ^{layer} L1

are formed], respectively, for evaluation. The reflectance and transmittance of the L0 [are] measured by a spectrophotometer [to find] that the reflectance and transmittance of crystal and amorphous thereof, i.e., R_c , R_a , T_c , T_a , [are] (R_{c0} , R_{a0} , T_{c0} , T_{a0}) = (5%, 5.5%, 71%, 62%), correspondingly, and for the L1, (R_{c1} , R_{a1}) = (20.3% and 6.2%).

For evaluation of the dual-layered medium, the L0 [is] focused first. The reflectance calculated from an amount of reflecting light obtained at the drive, i.e., the drive reflectance [is] (R_c , R_a) = (10.7%, 3%). The result [is] different from the value obtained by a spectrophotometer as described above because refractive indices of VO_2 and GaN [have] changed due to semiconductor-metal transition. A laser beam pulse irradiated the L0 to record a 0.194 μm long [by] linear velocity of 6m/s. CNR and 50dB [are] obtained. When random pattern [is] recorded by using 8-16 modulation code, jitter [is] 8.5% for the first recording, and 9.3% after overwriting 1000 times.

Next, the laser beam [is] focused on the L1. The reflectance of the L1 [is] (R_{c1} , R_{a1}) = (10.1%, 3%). The transmittance of the L0 [is] 71% when in crystal, is about a half of the reflectance of the L1 single layer observed by the spectrophotometer, since $0.71^2 \approx 50\%$, which agrees with the calculation. When marks [are] recorded in the L1 under the

same recording conditions ^{as used} for the ^{layer} L0, ^{the} jitter ^{was} (is) 8.7% for the first recording, and 9.6% after overwriting 1000 times.

Embodiment 2

As a layer 104 in FIG. 1, a mixed material of triphenylmethane dye material and color development material is used. ^{the} [A] ^{layer} laminated structure of L0 (is) ^{comprises a} polycarbonate substrate of 120mm in diameter (0.6mm) / a protective layer / a recording film InSe (10nm) / a protective layer (10nm) / dye (60 nm). ^{the} [A] ^{layer} laminated structure of L1 (is) ^{comprises} a protective layer / a recording film InSe (16nm) / a protective layer / a reflective film (80nm) ^{on a} 120 mm diameter polycarbonate substrate (0.6 mm). The substrate of the medium has grooves with a depth of about 70nm and a width of 0.615 μm , with a pitch of 1.23 μm .

^{method of} The ^{production} [method] of the medium is the same as the method described ⁱⁿ Embodiment 1, as shown in FIGs. 3A to 3G. ^{used} A dye, as a nonlinear optical material is formed by vapor deposition.

Hereinbelow, ^{an} [the] experiment (is) ^{with the described} conducted with a light source having wavelength of 650nm.

The reflectance and transmittance of the produced disk measured by a spectrophotometer result ^{ed} in (Rc0, Ra0, Tc0, Ta0) = (0.3%, 0.3%, 91%, 77%) for the L0 single layer, and (Rc1, Ra1) = (22.2%, 3.5%) for the L1 single layer. Two

were layers ^{are} combined by the resin. ^{The} thickness of the resin layer, i.e., a spacer layer, ^{was} ~~is~~ about 50 μm .

The drive reflectance of the dual-layered medium ~~is~~ ^{was} $(R_{c0}, R_{a0}, R_{c1}, R_{a1}) = (15.6\%, 4.0\%, 18.4\%, 2.9\%)$. The reflectance of the ^{layer} L0 is different from ^{the} reflectance observed by ^{the} spectrophotometer because the optical property of the dye changes ^{due to the} ~~by~~ focusing ^{of} the light spot ^{on} ~~to~~ the ^{layer} L0. From the calculation, the absorption of the dye with the above-described L structure with respect to ~~the~~ light ~~with~~ ^{having a} 650 nm wavelength ~~is~~ ^{was} close to 0%. However, the optical property of the dye still changes. The reason for this is that the recording film absorbs ~~the~~ light and transfers ~~the~~ heat to the dye. In the experiment, when the thickness of the upper protective layer exceeded ^{ed} 50nm, ~~a~~ ^{the} change in the optical property be^acame significantly small.

Recording ~~is made~~ ^{was applied} to the medium. By using an 8-16 modulation code, ^a random mark ~~is~~ ^{was} recorded by a shortest mark length ^{of} 0.42 μm and ^{with a} linear velocity of 8.2m/s. At the ^{layer} L0, ^{the} jitter was 8.2% for the first recording, and 8.6% after overwriting 1000 times ^{layer} ~~and~~ ^{the} at the L1, jitter was 7.5% for the first recording, and 8.0% after overwriting 1000 times.

Embodiment 3

As a layer 104 in FIG. 1, garnet ~~is~~ ^{was} used. The ^{specific} material used ~~herein is~~ ^{was} yttrium ion garnet (YIG) having Ga doped

therein, and a film thereof ^{was} [is] formed by sputtering. [A] ^{the layer} ^{composed a} laminated structure of, L0 [is] polycarbonate substrate of 120mm in diameter (90 μ m) / a protective layer / a recording film InSe(14nm) / a protective layer / garnet(15 nm). [A] ^{the layer} ^{composed} laminated structure of, L1 [is] a protective layer / a recording film InSe(16nm) / a protective layer / a reflective film (80nm) ^{on a} [is] 120 mm diameter polycarbonate substrate (1.1 mm). The substrate of the medium ^{was provided with} [has] grooves with a depth of about 25nm and a width of 0.16 μ m, with a pitch of 0.32 μ m.

The ^{method of} production [method] of the medium is the same as the method shown in FIGs. 3A to 3G. Garnet is sputtered in ^a 100% Ar atmosphere (except ^{for} remnant gases).

Hereinbelow, ^a [the] ^{an} experiment [is] conducted with a light source having ^a wavelength of 400 nm [and recorded] ^{for recording} on the groove, ^{will be described}.

The reflectance and transmittance of the produced disk, ^{when} measured by a spectrophotometer, result ^{ed} in (Rc0, Ra0, Tc0, Ta0) = (4.1%, 10.7%, 76.3%, 59.4%) for the L0 single layer, and (Rc1, Ra1) = (34.3%, 8.9%) for the L1 single layer. ^{The} ^{the} thickness of ^{the} ^{was} [a] spacer layer [is] about 25 μ m.

The drive reflectance of the dual-layered medium [is] ^{was} (Rc0, Ra0, Rc1, Ra1) = (16.3%, 1.3%, 16.8%, 4.4%). By using an 8-16 modulation code, a random mark ^{was} [is] recorded ^{with} [by] a shortest mark length ^{of} 0.19 μ m and ^a linear velocity of 6m/s. At the ^{layer} ^{the} L0, jitter is 7.8% for the first recording, and 8.4%

after overwriting 1000 times [1], and, at the ^{layer the} L1, jitter ^{was} [5] 9.0% for the first recording, and 9.5% after overwriting 1000 times.

Embodiment 4

As a ^{spec} layer 104 in FIG. 1, ZnMnTe, one of ^{the} magnetic semiconductor ^{materials}, ^{was} [1] used, and a triple-layered rewritable medium ^{was} [1] formed. ^{the} [A] laminated structure of ^{the layer} L0 [1] ^{comprised} a polycarbonate substrate of 120 mm in diameter (90 μ m) / a protective layer / a recording film InSe (10 nm) / a protective layer / ZnMnTe (10 nm). ^{the} [A] laminated structure of ^{the layer} L1 ^{comprised} [1] a protective layer / a recording film InSe (10 nm) / a protective layer / ZnMnTe (10 nm). ^{the} [A] laminated structure of ^{the layer} L2 ^{comprised} [1] a protective layer / a reflective film (80 nm) [1] on a 120-mm-diameter polycarbonate substrate (1.1 mm). The substrate of the medium ^{was} [1] an In Groove substrate having grooves with a depth of about 25 nm and a width of 0.16 μ m, with a pitch of 0.32 μ m.

[Since] ^{which} The medium ^{method of} is triple-layered, [1] has a structure as shown in FIG. 5. The ^{method of} production [method] of the medium is the same as the method shown in FIGS. 3A to 3G, except that ^{the steps in} (a) method ^{are repeated} shown [1] as FIGS. 3C to 3E [1] ^a after the method ^{step shown} in FIG. 3E. ZnMnTe is sputtered in ^{for} 100% Ar atmosphere (except ^{for} remnant gases).

Hereinbelow, ^{an}the experiment ^{will be described}is conducted with a light source having wavelength of 400 nm.

The reflectance and transmittance of the produced disk measured by a spectrophotometer result^{ed} in (Rc0, Ra0, Tc0, Ta0) = (2.4%, 6.6%, 82.8%, 67.1%) for the L0 single layer, (Rc1, Ra1, Tc0, Ta0) = (1.4%, 3.6%, 82.8%, 67.5%) for the L1 single layer, and (Rc2, Ra2) = (23%, 1.5%) for the L2 single layer. The thickness of a spacer layer ^{was}is about 20 μm .

The drive reflectance of the dual-layered medium ^{was}is (Rc0, Ra0, Rc1, Ra1, Rc2, Ra2) = (10.7%, 1.8%, 10.8%, 3.2%, 10.8%, 0.7%). By using an 8-16 modulation code, random marks ^{were}are recorded ^{with}by a shortest mark length ^{of}0.19 μm and ^alinear velocity of 6m/s. Jitter ^{was}is 9.0% for ^{the layer}L0, 9.5% for ^{the layer}L1, and 8.8% for ^{the layer}L2 for the first recording, and 10.1% for ^{the layer}L0, 10.8% for ^{the layer}L1, and 9.9% for ^{the layer}L2 after overwriting 1000 times. The jitter obtained herein is a little too high for ^(a)practical use. By applying PRML (Partial Response Most ^{Likely}Likelihood) as ^(one of)the signal process for reading, ^{the}data error rate ^{center}is reduced to about 2×10^{-15} .

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[In] A multilayered optical disk having n [layers of] recording layers [it] is designed in such a manner that, *the* transmittance T_i of the i^{th} layer from a light-incident side [fulfills] *satisfies the relationship :*

$$\prod_{i=1}^{j-1} T_i^2 \geq \frac{n-j+1}{n}$$

when the light is focused on a recording film of the j^{th} layer. By doing so, the recording/reading property of a multilayered medium is improved.